

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

SKETCHES  
OF  
LEGISLATORS  
AND  
STATE OFFICERS

1876-1878.

BY JOHN CARDWELL.

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1876.

**LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORY — SEN-  
ATORS.**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT.**

*Counties—Colorado, Lavaca and Gonzales.*

**SENATOR WELLS THOMPSON** is a native of the Republic of Texas. His father was one

of its earliest settlers, and died leaving a large planting interest in Matagorda county to his family. Wells Thompson was educated at the University of North Carolina, where he graduated with honors. He next studied law, but the war for a time suspended his entering into its practice. He served as a captain in the Confederate army, east of the Mississippi, and at the close of the war he returned to Texas and commenced the practice of his profession. He was chosen by the people of Matagorda county to represent them in the constitutional convention of 1866, in which body, though the youngest man in it, he proved an able member. He was next elected district attorney in 1866, and during

the short time he held the office took a prominent stand at the bar, both as a lawyer and an advocate. He was removed from this office by the military, in 1867, for being an impediment to reconstruction in Texas.

Mr. Thompson has always been a Democrat, and was the only Democrat in 1849 that ran for State position. He became a candidate for the lieutenant-governorship in the canvass between Hamilton and Davis, and it is believed was elected, though counted out by Gen. Reynolds. He made a vigorous canvass of the State and was warmly received at every point. Having settled at Columbus, in Colorado county, where he married, he entered earnestly into the practice of the law, but was called upon by his Democratic friends to make the race in 1870 for an unexpired term in the State Senate. He was counted out by a Radical combination, and in 1873 he made

a contest before the Senate, mainly with the view of showing the infamies he had unearthed in regard to frauds in the election. Had he been given the seat to which he was entitled the Democrats would have held the majority in the Senate of the Twelfth Legislature, and the infamous acts of that body would have been defeated. He is now a Senator in the Fifteenth Legislature, to which he was elected by the Democrats of Colorado, Lavaca and Gonzales counties by a majority of 1300 votes. After taking his seat he was honored by the body to which he belongs by being elected President, *pro tem.*, of the Senate.

Mr. Thompson is a gentleman of very youthful countenance, and of fine constitution, and bids fair to do many years of valuable service for Texas.